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physical environment where the men of low physical resistance were eliminated. The "Race Mind" is not quite so clearly analyzed or explained. In the main its stagnation is not due to sluggishness but to prepossession by certain beliefs—beliefs that are tenaciously held because in a vast population they have been instruments of order, security and a goodly measure of happiness. When the isolation of these beliefs has been broken up the Chinese mind is quick to respond. There is no evidence of intellectual inferiority. No more thoroughgoing interpretation on the basis of the Malthusian doctrine can be found than Professor Ross' fourth chapter on *The Struggle for Existence in China*. China's social problems are the result of the pressure of population on space and on the means of subsistence.

The industrial future of China is ultimately hopeful because of the vast unexploited material resources, but because of jealousy of the foreigner, dearth of capital, ignorant labor, graft, nepotism and lust for immediate profits without regard for the future, the development will be slower than many have predicted. The chapters on *The Grapple with the Opium Evil*, *The Unbinding of the Women of China*, *Christianity in China*, and *The New Education* are illuminating discussions of the changes that are taking place with a rapidity undreamed of a decade or two ago. "There is no reason to believe that there is anything in the psychology or history or circumstances of the Chinese to cut them off from the general movement of world thought. Their destiny is that of the white race; that is, to share in and contribute to the progress of planetary culture."

As usual, Professor Ross' facetiousness of expression leads him occasionally into exaggeration, but this after all is scarcely a defect. It makes the book intensely fascinating reading, and, once begun, the reader is loath to lay it down until he has reached the last page.

Whether or not all the generalizations of the author will be substantiated by more intensive observation and future history is of less importance than the contribution he has made to race interpretation on a scientific sociological basis.

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Spencer, F. H. *Municipal Origins*. Pp. xi, 333. Price 10/6. London: Constable & Co., Limited, 1911.

This important contribution to the history of local government describes the process by which the existing municipal institutions came to be established in England. The industrial revolution rapidly developed urban communities in what had been mainly a rural country and made it necessary to devise new machinery in the place of the inadequate manorial courts, parish vestries, old municipal corporations and quarter sessions. Fundamental changes were made; so fundamental indeed that the modern system "is not a growth: it is a creation." Mr. Spencer has made a systematic study of these changes as they appear in the great mass of private bill legislation of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth. He describes

the procedure followed in securing such legislation, the structure of the new governing bodies and the powers and duties with which they were invested. The conflicts between the reformers and the adherents of the old order are recounted with graphic detail. When it was proposed to abolish the office of overseer of the poor a churchwarden of Woolwich cried out indignantly: "Such speculative reformations are too closely allied to revolutions; and we deprecate every idea which can in any way tend unnecessarily to deface the wise structure erected by antiquity." There is ample proof, however, that the reforms were anything but speculative; they were adopted without relation to any general scheme and by what Mr. Spencer calls "the truly English method," "the wise and sufficient, if insular, method." Each community looked only to its own immediate experience and petitioned parliament for the satisfaction of its particular needs. The system of municipal government grew up naturally in response to the new social conditions; and, as Sir Edward Clarke remarks in his preface to the book, "the later developments, intended to give it scientific completeness, are in some respects the least satisfactory of all its parts." Mr. Spencer collected the material for his book while assisting the Webbs in the preparation of their history of local government; not only has great industry been expended upon the work of investigation, but considering the complexity of the subject its orderly and lucid presentation should be commended. There has been some carelessness in reading proof; on page 311 two sentences are unintelligible.

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Tarbell, Ida M. *The Tariff in Our Times.* Pp. ix, 375. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1911.

In this book, consisting largely of material previously published in the *American Magazine*, Miss Tarbell traces the history of our tariff since 1860. The narrative is entertainingly written in popular style and throws new light upon the political bickerings and log-rollings by means of which the duties have been made more and more protective; but there are no contributions of importance to the theory of the tariff or its practical economic effects. The main purpose is to expose the dominating principle of granting favors to constituents and campaign contributors regardless of the interests of consumers. The chief factor in determining the rate of duty imposed upon any article has been the organized strength of the producers. The attitude taken by the author is one of severe condemnation of the legislative methods of the protectionists.

The falsity of the pauper labor argument is rehearsed; the fact that the tariff is a tax is emphasized; and the benefits to the trusts are again pointed out. Throughout, however, a strong bias is manifested. It seems unwarranted, for example, to drag in the United Shoe Machinery Company as a possible beneficiary of the tariff. Similarly, the statement (page 355) that the earnings of the cotton mills have been "tremendous" is unjustified; a